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Forty-seventh session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

CONVENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOMALIA

Letter dated 10 December 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Under rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I should be grateful if you would kindly include an additional item entitled "Convening of an international conference on Somalia" in the agenda of the current session, with a view to its consideration, as a matter of urgency, in plenary meeting.

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSE

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ANNEX I

Aide-mémoire concerning the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the forty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly

In his capacity as the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, proposed, in the course of his statement on 30 September 1992 during the general debate of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, that an international conference should be convened on Somalia.

This proposal has recently been warmly welcomed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, during their special session at Jeddah on 1 and 2 December 1992, as well as by most regional groups and by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries' working group on Somalia.

In its resolution 794 (1992), the Security Council also emphasized the importance of convening an international conference on Somalia by requesting the Secretary-General to take all the necessary measures for that purpose.

In addition, the international community is increasingly determined to support all initiatives, including those of the Secretary-General, to save Somalia. The country faces a serious threat of total disintegration if concrete and effective measures are not taken. The convening of an international conference on this question would seem to represent a culmination of such efforts.

Finally, it should be emphasized that, in making this proposal, which currently enjoys the support of the vast majority of the international community, President Abdou Diouf and his African counterparts were convinced that such a conference should:

(a) Fall within the framework of the action currently being undertaken in Somalia by the Security Council, the Secretary-General and all humanitarian organizations;

(b) Provide, subsequent to the initial stages defined by the Security Council and the Secretary-General, an appropriate framework for a comprehensive political settlement of the Somali crisis which would assist the country's national reconciliation and the reconstruction of its national economy.

It is therefore of urgent importance that the General Assembly should establish forthwith the means whereby the Secretary-General may, at the appropriate time and with the support of the international community, exploit all the possibilities made available to him for the purpose of promoting a comprehensive and final settlement of this grave crisis.

The General Assembly should consider all the above reasons as sufficient to justify the inclusion in its agenda of an additional item relating to the convening of an international conference on Somalia.

ANNEX II

Revised preliminary draft resolution on the convening of an international conference on Somalia

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the tragic situation in Somalia,

Taking into account the statement made by the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity on 30 September 1992,

Taking note of relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 794 (1992),

Taking note of the outcome of the Second Coordination Meeting on Somalia, held at Addis Ababa on 5 December 1992,

Realizing that, in the absence of a representative national authority or any neutral devices for conflict resolution, the political situation in Somalia requires more active international involvement to assist the Somali people to resolve their conflict,

Convinced that lasting peace, stability and unity in the country can be achieved through a process of national reconciliation culminating in a final, comprehensive, politically negotiated settlement among all the political entities and segments of the Somali people,

Deeply convinced that a final negotiated settlement of the Somali conflict is an ultimate responsibility of the Somalis themselves,

Recognizing that the idea of convening an international conference on Somalia has gained widespread acceptance and is viewed as part of the important initiatives currently being undertaken by the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the international community to contribute to creating the conditions necessary for national reconciliation, peace and stability and for reconstruction of the national economy of Somalia,

Welcoming in this regard the efforts being exerted by the Security Council, the Secretary-General and the international community,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Standing Committee of the States of the Horn of Africa,

Stressing the need to coordinate the efforts being made by the international community towards the restoration of national unity, peace and the reconstruction of the national economy of Somalia,

1. Affirms the need for a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Somali crisis;

2. Welcomes the idea of convening an international peace conference on Somalia under the auspices of the United Nations and in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Standing Committee of the States of the Horn of Africa, governmental and non-governmental organizations, which would contribute to the establishment of peace and security in the subregion;

3. Recognizes that the restoration of much-needed peace and stability in Somalia must be governed, inter alia, by the following considerations:

(a) Strict observance by all the warring parties of a cease-fire under international supervision;

(b) Necessity for national reconciliation among the various factions, movements and groups;

(c) Full cooperation of all the warring parties with the United Nations peace-keeping forces following the termination of the current humanitarian operation;

(d) Establishment of a constituent assembly to prepare a constitution that guarantees to the people of Somalia the enjoyment of democracy, freedom and justice;

(e) Preparation and organization of free and fair elections in Somalia under the supervision of the international community;

(f) Solution of the problem of Somali refugees and internally displaced persons and returnees;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Standing Committee of the States of the Horn of Africa and with the support of any other governmental and non-governmental organizations, to consider the practical modalities for convening an international peace conference on Somalia;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly during its current session on this matter.